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1. ActionAid

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of ActionAid are outlined in its mission and values statements which form the basis of its strategy "Fighting poverty together", which reads "We aim to work with poor and marginalized people to eradicate poverty by overcoming the injustice and inequity that cause it. Our purpose is to address the root causes of poverty at all levels; promote basic rights; work increasingly in partnership and alliance; tackle constraints imposed by national and international institutions; comment more closely with national and local governments; influence attitudes, policies and practices for poverty eradication."

ActionAid works in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, plus five cross-border initiatives in Africa and Asia. Plans are in hand to open a new programme in Nigeria in 1999, and it also plans to open a programme in Zambia in March 2000.

Funding for its activities relies mostly on sponsorship. However, it is also funded by grants from the European Union, the World Bank, foundations and emergency appeal funds, among others.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

Since its Rwanda country programme was started in March 1997, the Rwanda Director has met with the UNAIDS Executive Director and presented key issues on HIV/AIDS in Rwanda from the perspective of non-governmental organizations, at a meeting which included Rwanda governmental ministers. The ActionAid Rwanda programme is currently setting up an NGO forum on HIV/AIDS in Rwanda in consultation with UNAIDS. The UNESCO resident representative recently attended the last day of an education training meeting in Rwanda and has agreed to working with ActionAid.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

ActionAid collaborates extensively with the United Nations globally as summarized briefly below:

UNDP. In November 1997 a seminar on participatory project management was organized by ActionAid Pakistan in collaboration with UNDP to share information and exchange views on formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. ActionAid Nepal teamed up with UNDP in 1997-1998 to build a common understanding on poverty between non-governmental organizations and Governments, entitled the Poverty Working Group. ActionAid is working with UNDP in Kenya on developing the Charter for Social Integration as a bill for Parliament. ActionAid plans to co-host an NGO preparatory meeting in March 1999, with logistical, facilitation, translation and interpretation assistance given by UNDP. ActionAid works with UNDP in Kenya as a partner to promote good governance, empowerment and human rights approaches to development. ActionAid Ethiopia, with other non-governmental organizations, is engaged in a collaborative research project on poverty and economic reform, in part funded by UNDP. In addition its Ethiopia staff points out that UNDP has been more than just a funding partner — it has been a collaborator in policy dialogues.

UNESCO. A research study on education for all is being conducted by ActionAid Pakistan, developed by UNESCO.

UNICEF. ActionAid Pakistan is involved in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference on gender processes and continues informal contacts with the UNDP gender units and with UNICEF. ActionAid Nepal and UNICEF are members of a broad-based alliance working on issues of bonded labour. The ActionAid Nepal staff also teamed up with UNICEF and the ILO in a study on child labour in 1998, and was also part of the steering team of the research study. Similarly in the same year a national study was done by Tribhuban University. ActionAid Nepal was a member of the steering committee, with financial support being provided by the ILO. The ActionAid international education team is liasing with UNICEF on issues of early childhood development.

UNCHS. ActionAid is also working with UNCHS (Habitat) in Kenya on issues of waste disposal and lobbying for inclusion in the Manual Pit

Exhaustion project of Habitat. Its Karibangi programme is also a member of the hosting committee for the UNCHS conference to be held in Nairobi later this year. ActionAid Kenya has also initiated discussions with UNCHS on collaborating on issues in informal settlements in Mombasa.

Other relevant links and activities

UNDP. ActionAid UK maintains ongoing linkages through the UNDP NGO Liaison Officer in Geneva. Its Northern Affairs Unit is working with the UNDP Office of Development Studies on the future of the aid agenda.

UNESCO. The International Education Unit has extensive links with the Education For All secretariat of UNESCO. ActionAid is a key player in the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All, a UNESCO committee.

UNICEF. The Rwanda director visited the in-country UNICEF programme coordinator and the education project officer to discuss funding issues.

UNHCR. The Rwanda director visited UNHCR a few times to discuss funding issues with the resident representative and other senior officials.

Publications. *External Influences Over Poverty in Malawi* (forthcoming); *Beyond Crisis Management: Southern Perspectives on the Future of Debt* (June 1998); *Voting for a Fairer World?: Parliamentary Opinion on International Development*: An ActionAid analysis (May 1998); *In Whose Benefit?: The Case for Untying Aid* (April 1998).

In the pipeline for the coming year are publications on an assessment of sanctions against Burundi; patents and food security: options for research and action; WTO and food security: opportunities for action; and the reality of aid, 1998-1999.

2. African Society of International and Comparative Law

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The African Society of International and Comparative Law was established in 1986 as a result of the feeling by some African lawyers that there is the need to form an association in order to learn from each other and to come to understand each other's systems (the common law and the civil law) better. It was also felt that there was need to coordinate efforts to enhance the African contribution to international law and to promote respect and understanding for international law. The Society is a non-political and non-governmental organization and now has a worldwide membership of about 2,000. There have been no changes in the Society's status as a non-governmental organization.

Activities since 1995

In order to achieve its aims, the Society has been conducting several projects. The relevant ones are described below.

The Society's representative in Geneva participated in several meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in 1997 and 1998.

The Society's annual conference, held in an African country, is always communicated to the United Nations Secretary-General who usually sends a representative. In 1995 the theme of the annual conference was "The contribution of the United Nations and its agencies to the maintenance of international peace". The then Secretary-General was represented by the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa. The 1997 annual conference was held in Abidjan, and the Secretary-General was represented by Ambassador Dinka. At the 1998 annual conference, held in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General was represented by the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Secretary-General sent a goodwill message to the 1999 annual conference.

Publications

In order to promote the activities of the United Nations and its agencies, the Society includes documents and articles on the United Nations in its publications.

The African Journal of International and Comparative Law, is the first bilingual (English/French) legal journal in Africa and is in its eleventh year of publication. Samples of articles published in the *Journal* are given below.

1995

"The Preamble to the United Nations Charter: the Contribution of Jan Smuts", by Christof Heyns (vol. 7, 1995, p. 329); "Le respect du principe de non-intervention par les forces de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies (Cas de l'ONUC et l'ONUSOM)", par Mutoy Mubiala (vol. 7, 1995, p. 158); "Reform of the United Nations system in the context of the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development", by J. S. Warioba (vol. 7, 1995, p. 426); Economic and Social Council: resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its Fifty-first Session on Zaire, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi and Rwanda (vol. 7, 1995, p. 189); "Agreement relating to the implementation of part XI of the Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 445); "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 683); International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: rules of procedure and evidence" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 693); Security Council resolutions 997 (1995), 1011 (1995), and 1013 (1995) (vol. 7, 1995).

1996

"La mission des Nations Unies pour l'assistance au Rwanda (1993-1996)", par Mutoy Mubiala (vol. 8, 1996, p. 393); "Fiftieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice", by H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali (vol. 8, 1996, p. 539); "La place de la Cour internationale de justice dans le système général de maintien de la paix institué par la Charte des Nations Unies", par Mohammed Bedjaoui (vol. 8, 1996, p. 541); "1996 and all that: the South-West African judgment revisted in the East Timor case", by John Dugard (vol. 8, 1996, p. 549); "Decolonisation in the International Court of Justice", by Shabtai Rosenne (vol. 8, 1996, p. 564); "The role of the International Court of Justice in the maintenance of international peace", by Dapo Akande (vol. 8, 1996, p. 592).

1997

"L'ONU et la protection des droits de l'homme", par J. D. Dougan-Beacá (vol. 9, 1997, p. 311); "General Assembly resolution 51/59, on action against corruption" (vol. 9, 1997, p. 677); "General Assembly resolution 51/191, containing the Declaration Against Corruption and Bribery in International Business Transactions" (vol. 9, 1997, p. 685).

1998

United Nations, "Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (vol. 10, p. 549); International Tribunal for Rwanda, "Rules of procedure and evidence" (vol. 10, p. 767); "The Prosecutor v. Jean Kambanda" (vol. 10, p. 836); Tenth annual conference, Addis Ababa, 3-5 August 1998. Theme: "The OAU at 35: achievements and prospects".

1999

Security Council, "Statement of the President on Somalia" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 211); "Les mesures prises par le Conseil de Sécurité contre les entités non-étatiques", par Farid Wahid Dahmane (vol. 11, 1999, p. 227); "International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: some comments on the M/V Saiga case" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 333); "The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: summary of the judgment in the Jean-Paul Akayesu case" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 336).

3. American Council for Voluntary International Action

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The mission of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction) is to enhance the effectiveness and professional capacities of its 160 United States-based non-profit member organizations engaged in international humanitarian efforts in 150 countries outside the United States. From 1995 to 1998, InterAction's United Nations activities focused on two major areas: humanitarian assistance, and social and economic development.

Participation in and follow-up to the conferences on economic and social development

InterAction and its members were active in the three United Nations global development conferences. A delegation of member agencies played a significant leadership role at the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), and members also attended the World Conference on Social Development (1995).

InterAction, through its Commission on the Advancement of Women, places special emphasis on promoting gender equity in the policies and practices of member agencies as well as in national and international development and humanitarian assistance organizations. Therefore, InterAction was extensively involved in the Fourth World Conference on Women. Prior to the Conference, over half of the InterAction membership, about 80 agencies, participated in the preparatory committees in New York and in Latin America, Europe and Africa to contribute to the Platform for Action. In order to expand participation of southern non-governmental organizations, the Commission provided grants to 23 women non-governmental organization leaders from Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia to attend NGO Forums and United Nations preparatory committees. In cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development, the Commission on the Advancement of Women also provided three $50,000 sub-grants to organize regional NGO Forums in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

The staff of the Commission on the Advancement of Women, along with 200 representatives from member agencies, attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995. The Commission had convened advocacy training workshops in six countries prior to the Conference and continued the training at the NGO Forum in Beijing. Many in attendance in Beijing had been in contact with the InterAction Commission prior to the Conference through the Commission's newsletter, *Mobilizing for Beijing*. The quarterly newsletter, which was printed in both English and Spanish, was a source of United Nations updates and conference topics for non-governmental organizations. At the Conference, InterAction coordinated the non-governmental organization effort to document governmental commitments for implementing the Platform for Action.

In 1996, after the Conference, the InterAction Commission and its members continued to promote the work done in Beijing through the Commitments Campaign and through Women's Eyes on the World Bank. The Commitments Campaign was designed to keep track of the implementation of commitments that were made in Beijing, while Women's Eyes on the World Bank aimed to ensure that gender was integrated into Bank operations.

In 1996, 1997 and 1998, Commission staff and member agency representatives attended the annual meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. At the 1998 session, InterAction sponsored an "evening dialogue" on women and armed conflict with the Division on the Advancement of Women, which presented a discussion on issues in the former Yugoslavia, Colombia, Sri Lanka and Rwanda. After each meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, the InterAction Commission disseminated the outcomes of the meeting to members and affiliates through InterAction's newsletter *Monday Developments*, formal gatherings and e-mail distribution services.

The InterAction Commission has also worked closely with other United Nations agencies, including UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNDP and UNHCR. Staff from several of these agencies have attended Commission training workshops; meetings have been held, and information exchanged.

Humanitarian assistance

InterAction's Disaster Response Committee (DRC) maintained an intimate relationship with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. Monthly meetings, co-sponsored by InterAction and the Department, were held at the Secretariat, during which information on specific crises, as well as issues of policy, were discussed among InterAction members, other invited non-governmental organizations, and members of the Department and other United Nations agencies engaged in disaster response. Under-Secretaries-General Hanson, Akashi and Viera de Mello met with InterAction members in Washington, D.C. when invited to address the membership or to hold informal discussions. InterAction also presented a forum for

other senior United Nations agency officials, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNDP Administrator, the WFP Executive Director, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children in Conflict, and the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Internally Displaced Persons.

A working group of the Disaster Response Committee collaborated closely with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, WFP, UNICEF and UNDP in drawing public and donor attention to the need to mobilize hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance for the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during the extended food crisis in their country. Officials of United Nations agencies serving in Pyongyang and policy makers from United Nations agency headquarters were frequent participants in the working group's monthly meetings. Pressure from working group members helped generate and sustain very high levels of United States Government support for relief activities in a country with which the United States has no diplomatic relations.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), InterAction participated in both the quarterly principals meetings and the more frequent IASC-working group sessions, both in the United States and Europe. Between meetings there was regular telephonic contact between InterAction's CEO and the heads of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNICEF and WFP. Topics addressed included both the crises of the moment and matters of more general policy. The InterAction CEO made a presentation during the humanitarian segment of the 1998 session of the Council.

The InterAction Disaster Response Committee worked with United Nations agencies on development of training curricula in health in complex emergencies and in non-governmental organization security. Representatives of UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP participated in these processes as students and/or presenters. The Committee negotiated, together with the International Council for Voluntary Action, an agreement with UNHCR governing the rate at which UNHCR now compensates its implementing partners for their headquarters overhead costs.

When the Secretary-General ordered a review of the United Nations disaster response institutional architecture, the Disaster Response Committee presented recommendations which the Secretary-General invited InterAction's President to discuss with him personally. The Committee also pressed the United States Government to support its recommendations.

4. Development Innovations and Networks

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Development Innovations and Networks (IRED) is a global network of over 1,000 grass-roots organizations and networks in Africa, Asia, Latin America and southern Europe. IRED has regional offices in Africa (Harare, Niamey, Lagos and Bukavu), Europe and the Mediterranean (Rome), Asia (Bangladesh) and Latin America (El Salvador). The head office is in Geneva.

IRED's major areas of intervention are in economic empowerment, local development and governance and policy analysis and advocacy. Its major programmes are information collection and dissemination, policy dialogues and capacity-building. These activities are realized through training programmes, publication of tools for action, and exchange programmes.

Activities with the United Nations system

IRED has permanent representation in Geneva and Rome. New York is covered by the board members and representatives who attended the following meetings:

Social Summit. IRED participated in national and regional preparatory sessions for the Social Summit. IRED was a member of the popular coalition coordinated by UNRISD. Three members of the General Assembly of delegates attended the NGO Forum in Copenhagen.

Committee on Social Development. A representative from IRED participated in the February 1997 session and made a presentation on efforts in Africa to fight social exclusion. The paper was delivered in a pre-session meeting at which representatives from United Nations agencies were present.

Committee on the Status of Women. A representative of IRED was a member of the Zimbabwe NGO Caucus that prepared a shadow report on CEDAW in 1996-1997.

Habitat II. IRED sent two representatives to the Habitat II conference in Istanbul. The representatives also participated in the preparatory conferences in Nairobi and Johannesburg. IRED was a member of the Africa Caucus on Habitat. Two members of the IRED network participated in the best practices exhibition on human settlements which was part of the conference.

UNCTAD. IRED cooperates with UNCTAD on a number of issues, particularly those related to small enterprise development, the least developed countries and gender and trade.

Representatives of IRED attend regular meetings of UNCTAD.

In 1996, IRED hosted and facilitated a two-day preparatory meeting for 30 African non-governmental organization representatives. The meeting aimed at familiarizing African non-governmental organizations with trade and development issues. IRED also facilitated the international non-governmental organization preparations and was a steering committee member for the NGO Forum held in conjunction with UNCTAD in South Africa.

World Food Summit. IRED was selected to the international NGO Advisory Group for the World Food Summit, with responsibility for ensuring participation by farmers' organizations and other groups from the South in the regional and global processes.

Three representatives from IRED participated in the preparatory meetings in Rome, Burkina Faso and Bangkok. A representative of IRED was the rapporteur of the preparatory meeting in Burkina Faso.

Representatives from each region of IRED were present in Rome for the World Food Summit. They participated in the Rural Women's Conference, NGO Forum, Farmers' Forum and the official conference.

Fourth World Conference on Women. A representative from IRED was selected to be a member of the Zimbabwe Government-sponsored national preparatory committee. IRED organized workshops at the local level and compiled the Zimbabwe NGO report to the Conference. Three partners of IRED participated in the NGO Forum in Beijing.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IRED cooperated with the following United Nations bodies:

FAO. IRED representatives in Rome attend regular meetings with FAO. IRED participated in the sessions of the Committee on Food Security in 1995, 1996 and 1997. IRED has also been engaged in discussions on FAO policy with regard to civil society.

IRED has implemented two projects in Africa, with cooperation from FAO. These projects seek to strengthen the voices of farmers' organizations in policy-making at the national and regional levels. In collaboration with FAO, IRED was selected to be the lead agency for capacity-building of farmers' organizations in the Sahel.

IFAD. IRED is a member of the IFAD-NGO Advisory Committee. IRED is also a member of the Popular Coalition against Poverty and Hunger. In Africa the regional office for East and Southern Africa is implementing a study on farmers' organizations with the support of IFAD.

WTO. IRED participated in the second ministerial meeting of WTO, held in Geneva in May 1998. The secretariat in Geneva prepared briefing notes from meetings organized by WTO. The notes were circulated to members of the IRED network and to other key networks which collaborate with IRED. The total distribution is over 500 non-governmental organizations in the North and South.

UNDP. IRED cooperates at the global level on programmes of poverty reduction. From 1993 to 1995 IRED collaborated with the United Nations Office for Project Services of the Secretariat on an Africa-wide project of capacity-building and access to credit for non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations. IRED also participated in UNDP meetings to develop a policy on civil society. Partners of IRED participate in several UNDP programmes at the national level — for example, the Poverty Forum and the Participatory Learning Network. In June 1997, IRED facilitated an African regional meeting for UNDP on participatory approaches to empowerment.

5. International Association Against Torture

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

The International Association Against Torture (AICT) was formed to address the issues of torture, particularly as carried out in the Americas during the dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s. It has evolved to address not only the human rights violations of torture but also to further research and advocacy on the theme of racism and development. AICT examines the many-sided effects of globalization and focuses discussion around foreign debt in light of the impact it has upon the economic and social rights of the citizens of the countries with a large debt. It works on the campaign for respect for international law. It monitors prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners. It examines the historical impact and current effects of racism as a continuing global human rights violation.

Participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies

Commission on Human Rights (1995-1998). AICT attended every session and presented oral interventions on the subjects of torture and detention; independence of the judiciary; the death penalty and summary execution; human rights violations around the world; racism and racial discrimination; right to development; economic, social and cultural rights; minorities; integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective; right to self-determination; violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world; effective functioning of human rights mechanisms.

Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1995-1998). AICT attended every session and presented oral interventions on the subjects of detention/torture; independence of the judiciary; the death penalty; human rights violations around the world; racism and racial discrimination; right to development; minorities; rights of women; right to self-determination.

Third Committee of the General Assembly. AICT has regularly attended the Third Committee meetings of the General Assembly and has lobbied for resolutions relevant to its areas of concern.

Commission on Sustainable Development. AICT has attended the New York-based sessions of the Commission.

Fourth World Conference on Women (1995). AICT sent a delegation to the Beijing Conference and participated in the NGO Forum as well as the regular Conference itself.

Seminar on Racism (Geneva, September 1993). The Vice-International Secretary-General of AICT was a panellist on the topic of "Racism and racial discrimination" in a seminar co-sponsored by the Geneva NGO Subcommittee on Racism and the Centre for Human Rights.

Other relevant activities

AICT took the following action in implementation of United Nations resolutions:

(a) Organized meetings in the United States and the Caribbean on United Nations resolutions on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination/World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(b) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat;

(c) Meetings with officials of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Geneva and New York, on work for the World Conference against Racism;

(d) As Bureau member of the International NGO Committee on Human Rights (International NGOs with Consultative Status), the International Secretary-General of AICT organized, moderated and made a presentation at a programme in November 1998 to discuss preparations for the United Nations World Conference against Racism;

(e) In 1997, AICT, having lobbied for several years for an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution to visit the United States, organized invitations for him to visit several sites, once the United States had extended the invitation. AICT co-sponsored the only public hearing held for the Special Rapporteur when he visited the United States, in October 1997. At a day-long hearing held at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, representatives from national organizations

(e.g., the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty), regional and local community-based organizations (e.g., Coalition against Anti-Asian Violence, Mothers Against Policy Brutality) and individual representatives of prisoners on death row or victims of police killings presented information to the Special Rapporteur;

(f) In 1997, the International Secretary-General was a member of an international group of jurists who were legal observers at the trial of the leadership of the Herri-Batasuna in Madrid, Spain.

6. International Fellowship of Reconciliation

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

Since its founding in 1919, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) has been committed to active non-violence as a way of life and as a means of change. Its activities for reconciliation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution range from the interpersonal to the international. IFOR works through its member branches and affiliates in over 60 countries. Most spiritual traditions are represented. Since 1995, IFOR has increased its membership, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

During the period 1995-1998 IFOR devoted itself primarily to supporting a number of international (including United Nations and other agencies) efforts for non-violence and peace, in particular the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates' Appeal campaign to request United Nations endorsement of a decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world, and of an IFOR programme to promote a culture of non-violence. It was a time of expansion not only of IFOR membership worldwide but also of IFOR core programmes, specifically those on non-violence education and training, and women peacemakers. Many important publications, particularly the volume *People Building Peace*, were initiated during the period.

Participation in the work of the Council

IFOR's representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna continue to maintain an active link with United Nations bodies, to act as a conduit for information to the IFOR network worldwide, and to promote the message of non-violence. Pierre Marchand, representing the Committee of the Appeal of the Nobel Peace Laureates, along with IFOR members and IFOR United Nations representatives, contacted many ambassadors at the United Nations in New York to encourage the Council's endorsement of the proposed United Nations decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world.

Cooperation with United Nations agencies and bodies

Since 1996, Pierre Marchand (from the IFOR affiliate Partage avec les enfants du monde, in France) and Henriette Tourne (from Movement international de la reconciliation, the IFOR branch in France) have acted as IFOR representatives at UNESCO. There was increased cooperation with UNESCO during the period 1995-1998, particularly during the long preparation process for the May 1999 Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) conference. IFOR and UNESCO forged a closer working relationship as a result of joint efforts to persuade the HAP Coordinating Committee to accept "Root causes of war/culture of peace" as one of the four major conference themes.

Other relevant activities

United Nations resolutions

After IFOR's 1996 quadrennial Council meeting (of representatives from all IFOR branches, affiliates and groups), IFOR members (including Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire) initiated the Nobel Peace Laureates' Appeal campaign to ask United Nations endorsement for a decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world. IFOR's strong support of this campaign garnered many thousands of individual supporters the world over. IFOR's international secretariat and United States branch co-sponsored a press conference with the Nobel Laureates in New York City in 1997 to promote the decade. IFOR's secretariat, its United Nations representatives and IFOR branches in the United States and France were particularly active in making contact

with United Nations and UNESCO officials and staff, and with accredited non-governmental organizations in New York, Paris and Geneva regarding the proposed decade. IFOR provided information on the Nobel Peace Laureates' Appeal in nine languages around the world. Through UNHCR, Appeal information was disseminated in refugee camps in Pakistan and some other countries. The United Nations official proclamation of the International Decade, in December 1998, has inspired IFOR groups to plan programmes and initiatives.

Over the past four years, IFOR has developed a Culture of Non-violence programme, and has continually striven to make active non-violence a key element of international cooperative statements and efforts.

IFOR has expanded its publication efforts in order to reflect the concerns of the movement, particularly in regard to the International Decade. Through the increased use of electronic communication over the past four years, IFOR has increased its ability to exchange information and forge links with non-governmental organizations, partner organizations in the peace, human rights, indigenous rights, and women's movements, and with grass-roots groups in every part of the world. In this way, IFOR has been able to promote information about, and activities related to, the Decade.

United Nations consultations

IFOR has welcomed the many opportunities provided by the United Nations to share information and expertise and further its work on crucial issues such as peacemaking and peace-building. IFOR accredited expert witnesses to testify before the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice regional workshops on firearms regulation for the purposes of crime prevention and public safety, in New Delhi, Arusha, São Paulo and Ljubljana. IFOR was represented at the seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in 1998.

In 1996, IFOR delegations addressed the Commission on Human Rights, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the topic of military sexual slavery. In 1997, IFOR conferred with delegates regarding reparations for "comfort women".

From 1995 to 1998, the IFOR representative to the United Nations in Geneva attended a number of sessions and submitted various statements on IFOR's behalf. These included statements on conscientious objection to military service and the right to asylum; the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world; wartime sexual slavery during the Second World War; sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime.

IFOR made a statement on the issue of discrimination to the Commission on Human Rights Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fiftieth session. IFOR was also represented at the international non-governmental organization meeting on the question of Palestine.

Preparation of reports/papers

Acting upon a request by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, IFOR canvassed its membership in order to submit a report on racism in January 1998. By request, IFOR's Women Peacemakers Programme (WPP) supplied the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with 160 copies of its annual International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament pack, which were distributed among United Nations staff. In addition, the WPP responded to requests for information from the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. In 1998, WPP material was provided to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Other

IFOR increased its contact with UNESCO. IFOR's general secretary, IFOR United Nations representatives and/or other IFOR staff met with UNESCO officials in Geneva (1997) and Paris (1998).

Discussions were initiated with United Nations officials in March 1998 regarding the installation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva of the art exhibit "50 Years of Silence", on women survivors of military sexual slavery.

7. Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA) was founded in 1961 through a series of international conferences in Japan, attended by participants from all over the world. The participants discussed how to achieve peace in the world, and agreed to set up an international body (OISCA) to implement programmes and projects in order to advance the cause of peace. The aims and objectives of the organization were initially set as follows: promote agricultural, forestry, marine and industrial development in harmony with nature, and improve the livelihoods of people; promote education and training in building human character, cultivating the universal human spirit, and encouraging such education among children and youth; respect for all different traditions, cultures and religions of the world; cooperate with other organizations and individuals sharing similar aims and objectives; other forms of activities essential for the attainment of the aims and objectives, including holding of international conferences and putting forward appeals.

In 1996, the OISCA Paraguay chapter was founded; in 1997, the Fiji chapter; in 1998, the Azerbaijan chapter. OISCA now has chapters, offices, members and affiliates in 82 countries, for a total of 53,733 members/supporters.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 1997 and 1998, OISCA worked with the World Food Programme in Kerala, southern India, to provide drinking water facilities to 55 schools and promote environmental education for the benefit of school children.

OISCA representatives attended the following United Nations meetings: UNDP Regional Millennium Meeting for Asia and the Pacific (Seoul, December 1998); UNIFAD/NGO consultation (Cairo, December 1998); UNIFAD/NGO consultation (Rome, October 1997); International Conference on Poverty and Starvation (UNIFAD, Brussels, November 1995); and many other United Nations seminars, workshops, consultations etc., held in New York and Tokyo.

OISCA organized its fourteenth Asia/Pacific Youth Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 21 to 24 November 1996. The Prime Minister of Nepal participated as the guest of honour. Officers of ESCAP, ILO and FAO based in Bangkok, as well as those in Kathmandu, took part in the Forum as resource persons. The Forum focused on water and food security.

In 1995, OISCA dispatched its first study mission, in cooperation with UNDP, to Myanmar, and as a result established the OISCA/Myanmar Agro-Forestry Training Centre in Myanmar.

Human resources development projects

During the period from 1995 to 1998, OISCA received in Japan, a total of 653 trainees (mainly for one-year courses) from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uruguay, and Viet Nam. OISCA runs a total of 21 training centres in Bangladesh (2), Indonesia (3), Japan (5), Malaysia (2), Myanmar (1), Palau (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Philippines (5) and Thailand (1). OISCA training programmes were conducted annually at the facilities of partner agencies in Fiji. At the training centres and in programmes in countries other than Japan, a total of 2,998 trainees attended programmes lasting from 6 to 10 months. A total of 651 persons were trained in Viet Nam in four-month courses in car repair, mechanics, electrical repair, dress making and carpentry.

Love Green tree-planting programme

OISCA promotes tree planting activities under its "Love Green" programme in various countries. During the period 1995-1998 OISCA planted a total of 1,951,006 trees on 1,072 hectares of land in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Children's forest programme (environmental education)

In cooperation with schools, OISCA promotes environmental education for schoolchildren and tree-

planting to create school forests, involving children, teachers, parents and members of the local communities. By the end of 1998, a total of 2,011 schools were registered as participating schools.

Education

OISCA donated school buildings and facilities to the following countries: Viet Nam, Myanmar and Philippines. OISCA operates a high school and a college in Japan in order to train and prepare youth for working in the field of international cooperation. In addition to the ordinary curriculum, active youth exchange programmes with other countries are organized to enable Japanese students and those of other countries to visit each other. A total of 461 students graduated from these schools during the period 1995-1998. OISCA also operates the Moonlight Astronomical Observatory, an educational institute with an astronomical observatory and an Earth science museum in Shizuoka, Japan. The goal is to educate schoolchildren about the universe, earth and ecology. In its environmental education programme, the Observatory accommodated a total of 56,000 children for overnight and two-day programmes (usually held over weekends). OISCA helped to set up 24 day-care centres in the Philippines, accommodating about 1,200 children. OISCA operates six kindergartens in China, accommodating about 1,500 children. OISCA/Japan organizes outdoor camps for children in which they learn about the environment and traditions, and engage in farm work such as digging potatoes, planting rice etc.

Relief activities

OISCA dispatched food, clothing, medicines, and vegetable seeds to Bangladesh in December 1998 when the country was hit by severe floods, and millions of people suffered from the natural calamity.

OISCA mobilized 35 volunteers for about 90 days to help victims of the Great Hanshin earthquake that hit Kobe and its vicinity in Japan in January 1995. They nursed victims and distributed cooked meals to the victims every day.

The OISCA Papua New Guinea Training Centre provided assistance (food and shelter) to refugees in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, when most of the areas in the city were blanketed with the ash of the volcano that erupted in October 1994. About 300 refugees in total stayed at the Centre for almost one year, until the end of 1995.

During the economic crisis in Indonesia, OISCA Indonesia worked actively to distribute food to needy people.

Health

Awareness programmes for young people were conducted by OISCA India and OISCA Bangkok, in India and Thailand, respectively, particularly on the prevention of AIDS.

Women in development

The OISCA Training Centre for Rural Women, in Bangladesh, is training young women in such fields as vegetable gardening, cooking, dress-making, health, hygiene and family planning. Some 800 women benefited from its long (one year) and short (one month) courses. The OISCA Shikoku Training Centre in Japan also specializes in the training of young women.

Income-generating activities

In order to help people in developing countries increase their incomes (in addition to helping them achieve increased food production) OISCA is working to develop local industries. In the Philippines, a sericulture project was implemented, with the participation of 50 farming households. As a result of its initial success, achieved at the end of 1998, the project is being expanded in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Development education

OISCA actively organizes lectures, seminars and other meetings for citizens in Japan, to enhance their awareness of the importance of continued efforts by Japan to make positive contributions to the international community in spite of the economic recession. During the four-year period, a total of 184 such meetings took place in Japan, with a total of some 12,000 citizens in local communities. OISCA has, as one of its affiliates, the Association of Japanese MPs Supporting OISCA Activities, comprised of some 230 Diet members. They have periodic meetings with OISCA officers to discuss effective international cooperation. OISCA provides the MPs with

information about various developmental issues in developing countries.

Sustainable agricultural development

At OISCA agricultural training centres OISCA technicians study and share information on organic farming methods. At the OISCA Training Centres in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Mindanao (Philippines), as well as those in Japan, farming methods that do not depend on chemicals or chemical fertilizers are being established and taught.

8. Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH) was organized in 1975 by various social, political, intellectual and religious sectors and trade unions in Argentina, in response to the extremely difficult situation the country was going through in terms of attacks on fundamental rights in Argentina and neighbouring countries. Because of its multisectoral and multiparty composition, APDH became a place for different people to meet and organize. Once democracy was restored, APDH's reputation as a defender of human rights, with no political affiliation, allowed it to play a significant role in the clarification of the immediate past, the reconstruction of the collective experience and the filing and classification of documentation that would contribute to those ends.

Goals

The goals of APDH are:

(a) To promote human rights and information about them, in accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to support the international documentation that refers to this question and the Constitution of Argentina;

(b) To play an active role in the upkeeping of the democratic life of the country within a pluralistic society;

(c) To research, investigate and evaluate data and information on the national and international situation in relation to human rights;

(d) To cooperate actively with political authorities and other social institutions and to promote human rights;

(e) To denounce all violations of human rights, whatever the agents of such violations;

(f) To make known the conclusions and studies of both APDH and other institutions or people who defend human rights;

(g) To assist all victims of human rights violations and their families;

(h) To coordinate action with other institutions involved in the defence and promotion of human rights;

(i) To promote education and research into human rights and their role and place in modern society;

(j) To fulfil the objectives emerging from respect for both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights;

(k) To defend the development of the people in understanding all that is essential for the true implementation of human rights in the world.

Participation in conferences/meetings organized by United Nations and other international bodies

Avila, Spain. July. Escuela Nacional de Policía en España (Spanish National School for Police). A course for Latin American police, oral and written presentation on "application of human rights in Latin America".

Santiago de Chile. December. A seminar on the effects of impunity in democratic process. Oral and written presentation on the psycho-social effects of impunity. Organized by the World Council of Churches and Latin American Service of Peace and Justice, together with Chilean non-governmental organizations.

1997

Geneva, Switzerland. March/April. Participation in the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. Two written presentations: "The indigenous situation in north Argentina" and "Basic questions related to the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom in the River Plate today".

Geneva, Switzerland. March. Participation in the meeting of the Committee for Non-governmental Organizations (CONGO).

Madrid, Spain. April. Carlos III University. Participation in a seminar on criminalization of economic, social and cultural rights. Organized by Carlos III University and sponsored by the United Nations, American Association of Jurists and the Department for International Elections of the Carlos III University.

Asunción, Paraguay. December. Participation in a seminar on policy and the role of non-governmental organizations organized by the United Nations and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Paraguay. Written presentation. Book published.

1998

Geneva, Switzerland. March/April. Participation in Commission of Human Rights Committee. Two written presentations: "Violation of human rights and the problem of impunity" and "The question of fundamental freedom from the perspective of the Southern Cone".

Geneva, Switzerland. June. Participation in a meeting organized by the World Council of Churches, to prepare a document to be distributed worldwide on the situation of human rights in the world. Various oral presentations.

Washington, D.C., United States of America. November. Participation in the public hearings organized by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Nuremberg, Germany. The co-president of APDH participated as a member of the jury for the Human Rights Prize, organized by the Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg.

Paris, France. December. The co-president of APDH was invited to participate in the memorial celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1999 (January to June)

Geneva, Switzerland. March/April. Participation in the annual meeting of the Commission on Human Rights. Written presentations: "Violation of fundamental rights: update of the situation" and "The protection of economic, social and cultural rights and globalization".

Berlin, Germany. June. Conference at the University of Berlin, organized by the Public School of Lawyers.

Other relevant activities

National

During the years 1996-1999, APDH promoted training in human rights. Its public pronouncements are usually acknowledged by the media, and it is a common practice to invite members of APDH to take part in radio and television programmes. Moreover, APDH has made public statements denouncing or questioning particular situations — for example, the war in the ex-Yugoslavia, the bombing of the Embassy of Israel, the law trials against Latin American dictators in European courts, and the conflict between India and Pakistan.

APDH has a special contract with the University of Buenos Aires to train students of law, political science and international relations in human rights cases. There is a similar contract with the Municipal Government of the city of Buenos Aires to train auxiliary councillors.,

APDH is in permanent contact with the local offices of the United Nations in Argentina, particularly with the Public Information Centre for Argentina and Uruguay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and UNESCO. APDH has been part of many campaigns, special events, round tables held by those organizations. The co-president of APDH received the 1988 UNESCO prize for his long history in the defence of public education and human rights. During the years 1998-1999, APDH reached agreement with the Inter-American Bank for Development to carry out a project on assistance and orientation for the third age. Consisting of courses in assistance and orientation for older people, it is being carried out in many areas of the country. It is hoped that a book will result.

9. SOS-Kinderdorf International

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Objectives

SOS-Kinderdorf International is a private, non-political and non-denominational social welfare organization which has as its principal objective the improvement of the quality of life of children and youth, regardless of their race, culture, religion, gender or social status. It is the umbrella organization of more than 130 affiliated national associations of SOS-Children's Villages all over the world.

SOS-Children's Villages provide the children entrusted to their care with a new and permanent home and a profound education. An SOS-Children's Village typically consists of 10-20 family houses where a well-trained mother takes care of 5-10 girls and boys of various ages (siblings are not separated). SOS-Children's Villages are built with various ancillary facilities such as kindergartens, youth homes, Hermann Gmeiner schools, vocational training centres and production centres and Hermann Gmeiner social and medical centres, which are designed to help prepare children and youngsters for a life of independence. They are also open to children and adolescents from the neighbourhood and contribute to a good integration of SOS-Children's Villages into the local community.

The first SOS-Children's Village was built at Imst, Tyrol (Austria) in 1949 by the Austrian, Hermann Gmeiner. Today there exist 400 SOS-Children's Villages in which about 40,000 children grow up. More than 500,000 persons are taken care of in the various SOS facilities. Apart from these manifold facilities, SOS-Kinderdorf International also runs very effective emergency relief programmes. SOS-Kinderdorf International is able to offer immediate humanitarian aid wherever exceptional situations (e.g., natural disasters, acts of aggression and war) make it necessary.

Publications

SOS-Kinderdorf International regularly issues the following publications in English, French, Spanish and German:

(a) SOS Children's Villages Facts and Figures (information folder, published annually;

(b) SOS Children's Village Facilities: Aims and Concept (information folder);

(c) Progress Report (published annually);

(d) *SOS Journal* (quarterly, for SOS co-workers and friends);

(e) *SOS-Kinderdorf-Forum* (magazine for international exchange of information and ideas on socio-educational, psychological, socio-political matters, published twice a year);

(f) *Kindheit und Trauma* (Childhood and Trauma), published in German (1997) and English (1999);

(g) *Afrika's Kinder* (Africa's Children), published in German and English (1995).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

SOS-Kinderdorf International supports special programmes, initiatives and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council that are of relevance and concern to the work of the organization, such as children's rights, human rights, literacy, education, health, eradication of poverty and human settlements. In these fields the organization has made valuable contributions to improving the social situation of not only children and youth but also of destitute people in general. In response to the UNESCO campaign "Education for All", SOS-Kinderdorf International has constructed 41 new SOS Hermann Gmeiner schools within the past five years, offering good basic education to about 66,000 children and youngsters. Over the same period 20 new SOS youth facilities, 64 new SOS kindergartens, 12 new SOS vocational training centres, 40 new SOS social centres and 12 new SOS medical centres have been erected to assure the well-being of vulnerable members of society. More than 500,000 people profit from about 1,600 SOS-Children's Village facilities and 10 SOS emergency relief programmes all over the world.

The organization has representatives at the United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The representatives work closely together with their local United Nations offices and participate in United Nations conferences and events. The organization was represented at the Fourth World Conference for Women (1995); at Habitat II (1996); at a UNESCO expert

meeting on sexual abuse of children (1999). Representatives of the organization regularly attend meetings of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, the Vienna NGO Committees on the Family and Development, the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) and the annual DPI/NGO conferences in New York. The organization was actively involved in the drafting of various statements for submission to the Commission for Social Development and in the activities and work of the above-mentioned NGO committees. Furthermore, the organization regularly exchanges information and reports with UNICEF, UNESCO, UNCHS, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP and various NGO committees.

At the field level, there have been several contacts and close cooperation with representatives of UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and UNESCO in Kazakhstan, for example, the organization chaired a seminar on welfare schemes for Central Asian non-governmental organizations, which was organized with UNICEF and UNDP, UNHCR and SOS-Kinderdorf International worked closely together in Albania to improve the situation of the Kosovo refugees. Fifty abandoned, orphaned children were admitted to the SOS-Children's Village in Tirana. In addition, two buildings were bought and restored to give shelter to 700 refugee families with children. In 1998, UNICEF and SOS-Kinderdorf International coordinated their emergency aid in Nicaragua. Since 1995, there have been close contacts between the organization's representative in Panama and the representative of UNHCS, resulting in a common project to build three houses for poor families there. The organization's representative in the Central American region attended many meetings there, including a seminar on child protection, organized by UNICEF in 1996; a conference on childhood integral protection, sponsored by UNFPA and UNICEF in 1998 in Panama; a seminar organized by UNHCHR, UNESCO and UNICEF in 1997 in Guatemala; and actively participated in the revision and production of a report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the Commission on Human Rights in 1998.

Other activities

In June 1998, SOS-Kinderdorf International held its sixteenth General Assembly at Imst, Tyrol (Austria) where the guidelines for SOS-Children's Village work for the next five years were drawn up. Apart from several training seminars for SOS co-workers from all over the world, the Hermann-Gmeiner-Academy of SOS-Kinderdorf International organized two international conferences — one in 1995 in Croatia, on "Traumatic experiences of children", with 200 participants from 13 countries; and one in 1998 in Estonia, on "Conflicts: a human phenomenon", with 270 participants from 26 countries. During the reporting period the organization extended its work and projects geographically to the following countries or areas: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, French Polynesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the occupied Palestinian territories, Taiwan Province of China and Yemen.

In 1999 the organization celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In recognition of its outstanding contributions to social peace in the world, it was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1999 by the Government of Austria.

The United Nations Secretary-General received the President of SOS-Kinderdorf International in June 1999 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary, to discuss matters of mutual concern.

10. Temple of Understanding

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The aims and purposes of the Temple of Understanding (TOU) are the worldwide promotion of interfaith dialogue and education, to achieve understanding and harmony among the people of the world's religions, and to work towards a "spiritual" United Nations. The Temple was founded in 1960 in response to article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and has tried to provide the United Nations with conferences and workshops on the full meaning of this freedom. Through its educational programmes, the Temple offers the perspective of different religious traditions for understanding pressing issues before the United Nations.

TOU has an India chapter with seven centres and a chapter in Argentina. The chapter in Argentina and five of the centres in India are new; no substantial changes in sources of funding; not affiliated to another NGO already in consultative status.

Participation in United Nations conferences

World Summit for Social Development, March 1995, Copenhagen. The Executive Director, the United Nations representative and four members of the Board of Directors attended and presented a paper, "Toward deeper values and fuller development".

Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, Beijing. The Executive Director, Vice-Chair of the Board and three delegates attended and presented a paper on women's spiritual values.

Habitat II, 1996, Istanbul. The United Nations representative headed the delegation consisting of the Board Chair and several members of the Board of Directors.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

On 21 October 1995, after a full year of planning and consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary, TOU sponsored an interfaith service and a two-day symposium on visions for the twenty-first century.

On 25 April 1997, TOU offered its Interfaith Celebration of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations, welcoming the new Secretary-General and the Permanent Representative of the United States. Representatives of 18 different faith traditions led prayers and readings.

In September 1998 the annual Interfaith Celebration of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations was attended by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, United Nations Parliamentarians and senior staff.

Other relevant activities

In 1995, TOU entered a contract for $60,000 with the United Nations to prepare the celebration in honour of the fiftieth anniversary.

On 14 February 1996 at the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II, TOU gave a presentation on the experience of interfaith collaboration in the urban community.

On 30 January 1998 "A season for non-violence" was launched in the Trusteeship Council; 2,000 people attended.

On 2 April 1998 a concluding event of "A season for non-violence" was held at St. Bartholomew's Church. The first Gandhi/King Award was presented to the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

On 16 October 1998 an interfaith service was held, in collaboration with the World Conference for Religion and Peace, to observe efforts to eradicate poverty on the part of UNDP.

TOU participated in preparatory committees of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women.

On 10 March 1998 "Women's voices in the new democracies" was presented, with the UNDP Office of Development Studies and the United States Mission to the United Nations.

On 30 March 1998 TOU held an interfaith seder with the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations.

On 14 April 1998 "Global changes at the turn of the century", a discussion with the President of the United Nations Foundation and former United States Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs, was held.

On 21 April 1998 "Human development challenges in the Russian Federation" a discussion with the Dean and Faculty of the School of Economics, Moscow State University, and authors of the UNDP *Report on Human Development* was held.

On 22 April 1998 "New perspectives on global cooperation at the turn of the century" was presented, with the senior adviser of UNDP.

On 21 October 1998 "Religion and ecology: discovering our common ground", sponsored with UNEP and other religiously affiliated organizations, was presented.

On 27 October 1998 "Youth connections: sowing seeds of peace", a panel discussion with the youth task force of "A season for non-violence", was held.

11. Transnational Radical Party

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a non-violent international political organization founded in 1955.

Since its affiliation with the Council, TRP has followed issues related to human rights, international drug trafficking, international criminal law and linguistic rights at sessions of several United Nations Commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

Since 1998, TRP has been a member of the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and recently was among the founders of the New York Non-governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. TRP is also a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. During the past four years TRP has collaborated with several other non-governmental organizations promoting the establishment of informal networks and coalitions to better educate the public on the work of the United Nations and to optimize joint activities regarding specific issues. In 1995, TRP was among the founders of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, and in 1997, it promoted the creation of the Coalition for an International Language. Both coalitions produce newsletters and participate in United Nations activities related to their mandates.

Participation in United Nations Commissions

Commission on Human Rights

At the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions TRP delivered written and oral statements on a variety of items, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the rights of the child; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; indigenous issues; and conscientious objection to military service.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

At the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, TRP delivered written or oral statements on the following items: the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; freedom of movement: population displacements; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the realization of the right to development; the human rights of women; the human rights of indigenous peoples; protection of minorities; administration of justice and the human rights of detainees; and elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief.

Commission on the Status of Women

At the forty-second session TRP delivered statements on the Beijing Platform for Action and women in armed conflict.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

TRP presented written and oral statements on the following: measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; promotion of judicial cooperation; the fight against money-laundering; and the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations

TRP submitted a proposal for an agenda item on eventual experimentation of an international auxiliary language at the June 1996 session.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and forums

TRP sent accredited representatives to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) (3-14 June 1996).

TRP circulated literature on its United Nations-related activities to the fiftieth and fifty-first annual DPI/NGO Conferences.

At the special session of the General Assembly on Drugs, TRP delivered a statement. It also took active part in all non-governmental activities such as panel discussions and round tables on drug-related issues and distributed a 20-page briefing paper.

TRP attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Other relevant activities

To better achieve its objectives TRP has launched several ad hoc campaigns aimed at targeting civil society, the media, and decision makers all over the world. Its major United Nations-related campaigns were "No Peace Without Justice", for issues concerning the establishment of an effective system of international criminal justice, and "Hands Off Cain", for the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on an international moratorium of capital executions. The final stages of the "No Peace Without Justice" campaign were a series of international conferences held in various capitals of the world to urge international support for the proposed court. In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in the work of the Conference on an International Criminal Court, inexpensive fares and special accommodation rates were found for delegates from the least developed countries and some 30 young experts in international law and international humanitarian law were enabled to participate in the various working groups. During the Conference, TRP organized a series of public events.

TRP operates a web site (www.radicalparty.org) containing the latest action alerts, TRP's position papers and news on the different issues set by its congressional motions.

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1. Africa-America Institute

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The mission of the Africa-America Institute (AAI) is to expand educational and professional training opportunities for Africans, foster greater understanding of Africa in America, and promote mutually beneficial United States-Africa relations. Founded in 1953, the Africa-America Institute is a multiracial, multi-ethnic, non-profit organization, with offices in New York and Washington, D.C., and a presence in 20 African countries. With funds provided by multilateral donors, the United States Government, and private foundation and corporate donors, it pursues its mission through work in three programme areas: human resource development; bridging and policy; and trade, investment and economic development. More information on AAI's programme areas is available at its web site: http://www.aaionline.org.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences

AAI staff members have attended numerous conferences since gaining consultative status at the United Nations. AAI's interests range from the educational to economic and social development, and this has been reflected in the United Nations-related events in which the staff have participated. Some examples of events in which it has participated are:

(a) African Women and Economic Development: Investing In Our Future, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 April-1 May 1998;

(b) First Global Forum on Human Development, United Nations, July 1999;

(c) Commission on the Status of Women, 1-19 March 1999.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In general the Africa-America Institute coordinates closely with UNDP on matters of overall African development. The Institute also cooperates closely with UNIFEM to promote effective policies for women in Africa. This led to the joint sponsorship of various conferences including those listed below.

(a) The Conference, African Women in Politics: Together For Change was held in Gaborone, Botswana, 6-9 May 1995, and co-sponsored by the Africa-America Institute, Emang Basadi, UNIFEM, and Women in Law and Development in Africa. It brought together 60 women from 22 countries to consult among themselves on how to get more women into political office. *Together for Change*, AAI's brochure based on the presentation at the consultation, has been widely distributed;

(b) In September 1995, a delegation from the Africa-America Institute attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, China. There AAI worked in consultation with other women's groups to organize a one-and-a-half day African Regional Congress for Women in Politics to enlarge on the women-in-politics database begun in Botswana;

(c) A networking meeting of the African governmental and non-governmental representatives to the Commission on the Status of Women was held at AAI's offices in March 1997. The event was organized in conjunction with UNIFEM and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung;

(d) As part of efforts by UNOPS to ensure a democratic transition from military government to a freely elected civilian government in Sierra Leone, UNDP engaged AAI to provide academic placement services for 15 members of the National Provisional Ruling Council. The project ended in 1998;

(e) In March 1998, AAI and UNDP welcomed the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson at the United Nations. As Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa, Jackson spoke to an audience of 250 diplomats, business people and community activists on "Africa's march towards democracy";

(f) Various briefings were arranged at AAI's New York offices and at the United Nations between officers of AAI and UNDP to discuss various issues pertaining to social and economic development in Africa. Subjects included connectivity issues in Africa and stimulating economic development in southern Africa;

(g) AAI was invited to collaborate in numerous UNDP and UNOPS activities, including Enterprise

Africa, a new regional programme of UNDP/Africa launched in spring 1999.

Other relevant activities

Through its programme work AAI has continued to support United Nations determinations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and to employ machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

Between 1995 and 1998, the Institute continued to administer undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate fellowships for Africans studying at American universities. They are designed to prepare Fellows to make, upon their return, positive changes that will further African development. Apart from administering training programmes, in 1997 and 1998, AAI sponsored several symposia in Africa to enhance leadership skills and exchange ideas and information on pressing issues to Africans. These included:

(a) A forum entitled Gender, Empowerment and Sustainable Development in Africa, held in Blantyre, Malawi, in February 1997, focused on how men and women can work together in effective partnerships;

(b) A conference entitled Partnerships in Higher Education in Africa brought together 40 delegates from 17 countries in Gaborone, Botswana, in August 1997;

(c) A round table entitled Connecting Worlds: Africa and the United States in the Information Age, in September 1997, brought participants together to discuss the role of information technology in African development and the creation of a greater information technology infrastructure on the continent. The roundtable resulted in the production of a brochure of the roundtable proceedings;

(d) Various conferences on the theme of economic development in Africa, including Private-sector Stake in Southern African Development, which was held in Windhoek, Namibia, in December 1996. The conference was co-sponsored by the Governments of Japan and Namibia, the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations and the Southern African Development Community.

2. Tunisian Mothers' Association

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

The objectives of the objectives of the Tunisian Mothers' Association (TMA), established at the beginning of the last decade of the twentieth century (11 August 1992), are to assist mothers in need and encourage them to meet all their family, social, community and civic responsibilities.

At the regional level, taking into account the divisions within the United Nation, TMA is a member of several networks within Tunisia's geographical and political ambit, including:

(a) At the Arab level, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); TMA has participated in all conferences held in preparation for and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and in preparatory and follow-up conferences for other regional and global events organized by the United Nations;

(b) At the African level, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), of which TMA is Vice-Chairperson and Coordinator for North Africa;

(c) At the North African level, the *Association maghrébine des mères* (North African Mothers' Association), which TMA has chaired since the Association's 1999 organizational conference in Tunis; and

(d) At the Mediterranean level, the Association des mères de la Méditerrannée (Mediterranean Mothers' Association) and the Forum des femmes de la Méditerrannée (Mediterranean Women's Forum).

At the global level, TMA is a member of the Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) and of the World Family Organization (formerly the International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO)), of which it was elected president at the 1997 executive board meeting in Brazil. It has held the presidency of the *Commission internationale des familles rurales* (International Rural Families' Committee) since 1996 and of the World Family Organization's international women's committee since the April 2000 executive board

meeting in Tunis and the vice-presidency of the *Commission internationale de la jeunesse* (International Youth Committee) since the 1996 executive board meeting in Barcelona.

Strengthened by its membership in this global network of organizations, TMA has taken part in all United Nations international conferences. In the context of follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, it has participated actively in the work of those conferences (by, *inter alia*, sponsoring workshops on key social issues such as the role of mothers in the family) and in all the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

In pursuit of its objectives in the field of development, TMA has made repeated changes in its charter in order to adapt its structure continually to emerging needs.

Thus, its membership has increased from 12 founding members in 1992 to 5,000 at its first electoral conference in 1996, 10,000 in 1998 and 15,000 in 2000.

Regional committees

In 1996, it maintained 23 regional committees, one in the capital of each of Tunisia's governorates (prefectures), in order to be as close as possible to mothers; that number rose to 27 in 1997-1998 with an administrative decision to subdivide the national coordination committees and to 30 in 1999 with the inclusion of professional committees. In 2000, the expansion of TMA activities made it necessary to increase the number of regional bodies at the delegation (sub-prefectural) level through the establishment of local committees (10 to 15 per regional committee).

TMA branches abroad

On the principle that the needs of women living outside Tunisia must also be met, TMA has developed a branch network of Tunisian members residing abroad in order to help them live harmoniously in a bicultural environment and to maintain ongoing contact with their country of origin.

The number of branches has risen. In 1996, 17 European branches were established, most of them in France, Germany and Italy, which have many Tunisian communities and where emigrant mothers face the most difficult problems. That number rose to 22 in 1997 with the addition of branches in the United States of America and Canada; to 32 in 1998, when Tunisian mothers living in Arab countries also felt the need to establish branches; to 40 in 1999 with the addition of North African branches; and to a total of 45 as at 2000.

Anniversary of the change

Caravans were organized by all the branches of TMA in the country's various governorates, to serve needy families, families in "grey areas" and single mothers. In 1996, 690 families received assistance (clothes, blankets, foodstuffs); in 1997, this figure rose to 950 families (clothes, blankets, foodstuffs, hygiene products, mattresses, medicines, crutches); in 1998, 1,400 families (clothes, blankets, foodstuffs, hygiene products, mattresses, medicines, beds); in 1999, 2,000 families (clothes, blankets, foodstuffs, hygiene products, mattresses, medicines, beds, crutches and monetary gifts); and in the year 2000, it is expected that 2,500 families will be helped (clothes, blankets, foodstuffs, hygiene products, mattresses, medicines, beds).

Environment

TMA adapts its activities to environmental priorities adopted at the national level. Clearly, promoting awareness is the most difficult task.

In 1996, TMA organized awareness-raising campaigns on the themes "Saving our environment", "Working together for clean beaches" and "One child = one tree". Planting activities were organized on a number of sites, particularly schools, during the multidisciplinary caravans, encouraging children to take a public spirited attitude to the environment.

In 1997, the main activity was the integrated project conducted in El Khadra, a housing complex in Tunis, to promote awareness of the need to sort organic refuse from recyclable items. Refuse bins of two different colours were distributed to the citizens. A follow-up survey was conducted and the results were broadly satisfactory.

In 1998, the theme "Biodiversity and biological rarefaction in Tunisia" was adopted. An exhibition and tasting of plant-based foods and herbal teas were held, with participation by children at the cultural level; this took place under the slogan "Using the plants in our environment".

In 1999, sustainable development was the theme of the year's activity, designed to encourage rational use of resources (fauna and flora) and to combat deforestation. As a follow-up to its 1998 activity, TMA is planning to publish a nomenclature of medicinal plants found in the local environment, in simple language which can be understood by all mothers.

For the year 2000, the theme will be marine pollution and protecting the seashore from contamination. A lecture will be given by a woman scientist who specializes in this field, and children will as usual be in charge of the cultural aspect.

TMA has also played an effective part in various seminars and discussions at the national and international levels organized by environmental associations and by the World Environment Fund (WEF), under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Information, communication and publishing activities

Mères-Échos, created in 1993, is a periodical published by TMA every two months (i.e. six issues per year). Its target audience comprises mothers in Tunisia and abroad, who are informed of developments within the association itself and events in Tunisia as a whole (elections, national days devoted to particular issues, etc.).

In addition to its coverage of United Nations events, Mères-Échos has monitored and reported on the participation of TMA in international conferences held over the past decade, including the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Food Summit.

The communication activities of TMA also include broadcasts (via radio and television) of features of interest to mothers; these serve as a vehicle for principles of family education. For families residing outside Tunisia there is a weekly feature every Sunday, broadcast via satellite, involving TMA branches established in countries where there are large numbers of Tunisian families.

Following the declaration of Tunis as a cultural capital by UNESCO in 1997, TMA showed its fertile imagination and pride in its cultural heritage by deciding to develop that heritage, to disseminate it and to serve the cause to which TMA is dedicated: supporting and helping others.

To that end, drawing upon the highly diversified role of Tunisian mothers in everyday life, with input from leaders in all professional fields, TMA produced a masterpiece entitled La Mère tunisienne, tradition et modernité. This book, which simultaneously covers two areas — culinary art and traditional dress — and tells of the country's glorious heritage, was voted one of the best publications of the new era. It serves to promote social solidarity, for many copies have been sold, generating funds and helping to finance the association's noble cause.

3. Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Sanstha

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Aims

The main aims of Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Sanstha (BAPS) include establishing and maintaining hostels and schools and propagating. BAPS also aims at charitable objectives in education, medicine, poverty alleviation, eradication of illiteracy and of addictions. BAPS is involved in environmental, medical, social and cultural activities towards promoting morality, character, and value-based life. These aims are implemented through a worldwide volunteer force of 40,000. Activities and projects to fulfil these aims include disaster relief projects for earthquakes and floods, assistance for education and medication, organizing youth and children at over 6,800 centres, operating hospitals and organizing medical camps.

Medical

(a) Free diagnostic camps. Conducting free camps for heart, eye, skin, women's health, and disease prevention;

(b) Physical fitness courses. Physical fitness and yoga classes at many centres; athletic events, annual sports days, cricket, basketball matches and swimming trips;

(c) Charitable hospitals. Three hospitals in India. In 1997, these hospitals treated more than 140,000 patients. Construction began in 1997 on a 50-bed hospital in Dabhol;

(d) Clinics and dispensaries. In nine cities, with an average of 15-20 patients per day treated at each location;

(e) Children visit patients in hospitals. Children visit, talk to and pray for patients: 22,691 patients were met in 562 hospitals in 1995;

(f) Blood donation camps. The largest was a 37-day camp in 1995 in Bombay: 405,000 cc of blood donated;

(g) Health awareness publications. More than 165,000 booklets on topics like AIDS, smoking, tobacco chewing, alcohol and drugs, in English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi;

(h) Medical education activities. Pramukh Swami Medical College, Karamsad. Famous medical college in southern Gujarat. Helps students of medicine. Free books, free coaching classes, free professional advice;

(i) Medico-spiritual conferences. To preserve medical ethics and raise standards. In 1995 — 13 conferences, 3,051 doctors; 1977 — five conferences, 2,300 doctors; 1998 — 28 conferences, 6,275 doctors.

Education

(a) Primary and secondary schools. 4,564 students in 10 permanent schools, mostly for the socio-economically underprivileged; 1,100 attend Sunday school in the United Kingdom, learn Indian languages, self-defence, and leadership; four Sanskrit colleges where scholars study Sanskrit;

(b) Youth hostels. Nine hostels, 1,242 students; five more hostels under construction. Aim at an all-round personality, organizing dialogues, debates, folk dances, sports, spiritual assemblies, singing, music, and also moral education for character molding;

(c) Financial aid for education. Nine schools and five colleges were given aid which was vital to their existence. A planetarium in Rajkot was given aid;

(d) Direct student help. Free coaching classes for all students at BAPS centres in Gujarat. Scholarships for deserving students to enable continued studies — 1995: 794, 1996: 862, 1997: 953, 1998: 1,795. Student adoption scheme: full education expenses for 158 students are borne by BAPS; 1,500 selected students attended workshops in 1997 for study, concentration and personality and character development;

(e) Summer camps. Every summer, groups of children from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Africa come to India to know more and to explore. Summer camps for sports, athletics, yoga and martial arts, picnics, music and cultural arts;

(f) AARSH Research Centre. For action-oriented higher studies in social spheres. The concept of Vaidika Conference (1995), on Indian philosophy and Vedas, was attended by 20 scholars and 100 selected participants at the Role of the Guru Conference (1996), papers were presented by 22 scholars to a learned audience of 408.

Emergency relief work

BAPS saints and volunteers manage all relief operations on-site themselves to ensure accountability.

(a) 1995. Floods of Malda, West Bengal, India. Truckloads of clothes, utensils and medicines distributed;

(b) 1996. Cyclone of Andhra Pradesh, India. 10,000 families in 20 villages helped. More than 21,150 kg of food distributed. More than two truckloads of used clothes distributed. Medicines provided and prescribed by doctors on-site;

(c) 1997. Floods of Gujarat, India. Fresh food and drinking water provided; 300 families, given cooking utensils, 70,000 food packets; preventive medicines distributed;

(d) 1998. Cyclone of Gujarat, India. Twenty saints and 40 volunteers reached the site within hours of the cyclone, with 10 tons of food grains, two truckloads of millet, 500 primus stoves, 600 sets of steel utensils, two trucks of clothes, 200 cartons of specialized clothes and shoes, medicines worth Rs 250,000;

(e) 1998. Bomb blasts, Nairobi. Fifty volunteers rushed provisions, donated money, and helped troops in repairing the damage at the United States Embassy and surrounding areas.

Anti-addiction drives

(a) Anti-addiction drives. Against addiction to tobacco, smoking, alcohol, gambling and drugs. Many have quit their life-long addictions — 38,000 in 1995, 5,596 in 1996 (93,733 addicts contacted by 125 teams), and 10,000 in 1997; 76,196 letters of encouragement were sent to people as follow-up measures;

(b) Anti-addiction exhibition. Anti-addiction mobile exhibition toured in India; viewed by 2 million people.

Uplift of the socio-economically underprivileged

(a) Holistic work in backward areas. Regular visits by saints and volunteers to remove superstitions and addictions to tobacco and alcohol. BAPS conducts regular literacy classes, weekly spiritual meetings, and lays great emphasis on family values. Free ambulance service in Dadra. Free illness-specific medicine distribution every week in Silvassa. Complete educational complex for 2,000 students in Ukai, where free education, textbooks and notebooks, and scholarships are provided; 42 out of 72 villages made addiction-free;

(b) Work for elders. Daily and weekly gathering of elders fulfilling United Nations principles of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity. BAPS also utilizes elders' talents in community service.

Care for morality

(a) Moral centres. Currently more than 2,859 children's centres, 2,639 youth centres and 1,316 women's centres; 1,360,000 meetings conducted for moral awareness in 1995-1998;

(b) Moral and spiritual courses. Moral open university-type courses; examinations at 988 centres around the world. 1995 — 21,000; 1996 — 15,000; 1997 — 25,000; 1998 — 26,000 examinees;

(c) Family care. Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual head of BAPS, believes that family that eats together, plays together and prays together stays together. BAPS started unique home assemblies so that the family sits and prays together; 5,209 families began home assemblies in 1995, 11,000 in 1996.

Care for the environment

(a) Tree planting: 1,200,000 planted in 2,170 villages;

(b) Waste recycling: 7 million aluminium cans collected in the United Kingdom (1995); three environment awards won;

(c) Water conservation: 5,475 wells recharged in 338 villages; 300,000 awareness posters distributed; 102 watershed projects completed with check dams, farm ponds and percolation tanks.

Care for culture

(a) Akshardham, a cultural wonderland. Intricate carvings on 6,000 tons of pink sandstone took six years and 8 million hours to build. Visited by 9,200,000, including the Dalai Lama, Lech Walesa and Prince Philip. Akshardham's multimedia show won the Bronze Medal at the Multimedia International Competition in Munich;

(b) Swaminaravan Hindu Mandir, Neasden, London. An outstanding introduction to Indian culture, society and religion. Inaugurated in 1995, it was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records in 1997, as the largest stone temple outside India. BAPS' spiritual head, Pramukh Swami Maharaj, is hailed as a master builder in the 2000 edition. Hailed as one of the 70 wonders of the twentieth century by *Reader's Digest*. Visited by 1,700,000 people (1995-1998).

Conventions and conferences

(a) Conferences and conventions organized. International Convention for Women (London), International Conventions for Better Living; Students; Children Youth; Medico-Spiritual (Bombay). Conferences on the Impact of Modern Media on Society, Gerat Women Achievers, Contemporary Family Systems (Bombay); 1,500 selected students attended workshops in 1997 for study, concentration, personality and character development;

(b) Conferences and conventions attended. Two representatives were present at 1996 DPI/NGO briefings in New York; annual United Nations meetings of non-governmental organizations, in New York, Vienna, and Geneva in 1997.

4. Brothers of Charity

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Aims and purposes

The mission of the Brothers of Charity is the facilitation of well-being and development of individuals and groups who are at risk due to psychological, economic, or sociological conditions. Traditionally, the Brothers of Charity have focused on establishing educational services for children regardless of their economic, religious, or social background. Apart from school services worldwide, service centres have been established for individuals with severe mental health problems and disabilities. In recent years, conforming to their mission to deliver care for persons indeed, the Brothers of Charity have developed new services and projects for drug-addicted individuals, refugees, street children, and HIV clients. Care established is increasingly linked to advocacy and combined with facilitating self-advocacy. Worldwide, the Brothers are active in 24 countries. Funding of existing projects is mainly through governmental grants and charity contributions.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and meetings

Sr. Maria Goetschalckx, Esq., our main representative, attends most Thursday morning non-governmental organization sessions to network with other non-governmental organizations with similar objectives. At the Economic and Social Council substantive session of 1997 (Geneva, 30 June-25 July), the Brothers of Charity expressed their support to the proposal to proclaim the year 2001 as the international year of volunteers.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

We have relied on the documents of the United Nations to formulate new visions and to reformulate our traditional viewpoints regarding our mission. We expect to have a more structured flow of documents to the United Nations from the spring of 2000, when we will have a think-tank meeting of the members of our electronic discussion group in Gent to prepare documents for the United Nations and other non-governmental organizations.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementing United Nations resolutions

Human rights. The right to human treatment: implementing more human ways of treating individuals with mental health problems. New projects for individuals with need for psychiatric care have been established or reactivated by the Brothers of Charity in countries such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Ivory Coast, Mongolia, Rwanda, South Africa. These projects underscore the need for community-based care, specifically geared to providing quality of life care, coupled with therapeutic care. At the same time, these projects illustrate the possibilities beyond traditional institutional settings and their viability in rural areas, and target the change of attitude necessary to mainstream.

The right to secure re-settlement and reintegration. Since the tragic events in the region of the Great Lakes (Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo), the Brothers of Charity have started advocacy services for individuals in refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania. The projects include recovery from trauma, access to education (including setting up a system of distance learning and developing means for future economic self-sufficiency through micro-enterprise).

The right of the addicted individual to reclaim drug-free human status. The Brothers of Charity take a stand in favour of developing residential and therapeutic programmes that provide non-methadone-dependent reconnection with the community. We have been successful with this treatment and want others to understand its possibilities.

Children's rights. The Brothers of Charity keep honouring their tradition of establishing schools and educational services for children who are cognitively or otherwise challenged, or who come from socio-economic groups at risk. Since 1996, the Brothers of Charity have extended this commitment by providing educational services to children in refugee camps, and by facilitating a programme in Romania for training of social workers and psychologists to improve the conditions and perspectives of street children.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

In setting up our projects and in deciding on strategies and priorities, we have relied on materials of the World Summit for Social Development (1995). Within their projects, the Brothers of Charity work on highlighting and prioritizing such aspects as social integration by protection of human rights and non-discrimination, participation of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons (Summit commitment 4) and achieving universal and equitable access to quality education, high physical and mental health (commitment 5). Further elaboration of the Brothers of Charity's viewpoint will be the basis for communications and cooperation with officials within the United Nations secretariat.

Preparation of papers and/or other material

The Brothers of Charity intend to focus on a number of specific perspectives to areas of interest for the United Nations: responsible development; the right to education; human settlements; the right of proper care and treatment for individuals with psychological or physical impairments.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

In March 1997, the International Congress on the Quality of Life was organized and held in Gent, Belgium. At the Congress, representatives from projects of the Brothers of Charity worldwide met to discuss lines of present and future work within the frameworks of the tradition and perspectives of the Brothers of Charity and the United Nations. It was found that the concept "quality of life" can be used as a core reference notion to set standards in education, service provision, economic rights of the individual, care for individuals at risk etc. As a resolution of the Congress, the notion of "quality of life" will be a standard of reference to rate our own services worldwide and to help set standards for the community. as an outcome of the Congress, a book on the quality of life, applied to mental health service delivery, education, care and empowerment of individuals with disabilities, and other individuals and groups at risk has been published.

5. International Association for Religious Freedom

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) was founded in 1900 as an association of individuals and groups who share a commitment to work for freedom of religion or belief through interfaith understanding and cooperation. At the end of 1998 IARF had 80 member groups, 10 national chapters, and individual members in 35 countries. The programmes of the IARF include community service and development projects, conferences, publications, and the work of its representations at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. These activities have been planned and supervised by regional offices in New York, Calcutta, Manila, and Tokyo and by the international secretariat in Oxford, England.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

In 1995 IARF was represented at the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human rights by Professor Frank Field, and from 1996 the IARF was represented at those bodies in Geneva by Dr. Gianfranco Rossi. From 1995-1998 IARF had between five and seven representatives attending briefings and various committee meetings in New York.

IARF supported the development of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which has been active in New York at the United Nations since 1992. An IARF representative assisted Professor Amor, Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, when he came to the United States to hold hearings. IARF was one of several non-governmental organizations to make a presentation at the hearing in New York.

IARF led the effort in promoting designation by the General Assembly of an Annual International Day for Freedom of Religion or Belief. Twenty-three non-governmental organizations, including IARF, submitted a joint proposal to the Commission on Human Rights. Since 1994 the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief has co-sponsored, with the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations

and the International NGO Committee of Human Rights, the Values Caucus, an annual day for freedom of religion or belief. IARF representatives have always played a major part in planning and carrying out these programmes. The Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance spoke at the 1995 and 1998 events, and the General Secretary of IARF also spoke at the 1998 event.

In 1995 several IARF representatives attended and actively participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women. That same year the IARF General Secretary delivered a speech to the Values Caucus in January as part of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development. The General Secretary also spoke at the United Nations on 25 October 1995 at a meeting sponsored by the Committee of Religious NGOs. In 1998 the IARF General Secretary and IARF representatives Sue Nichols and Dr. Gianfranco Rossi each made a presentation at the Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which was held in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since 1996 Dr. Rossi has been representing IARF at the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. He has regularly intervened on behalf of victims of religious persecution and intolerance. These interventions are posted on the IARF web site. His interventions made at the Commission on Human Rights in 1996-1998 included statements on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, and implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Interventions were made at the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (1996-1998) on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries, the prevention of discrimination against and the protection of minorities, the implementation of human rights with regard to women, and the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (1997, 34th meeting; 1998, 30th meeting).

Promotion of the United Nations

IARF World is published twice a year and distributed to more than 2,000 households and institutions. Specific articles supporting the United Nations covered the following subjects: religion and human rights in Europe; the special programme for non-governmental organizations at the United Nations sponsored by the Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief; the IARF initiative in Pakistan; religious freedom in Romania; the International Criminal Court; the sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, discrimination in Saudi Arabia, and the persecution of religious minorities, in particular the Pandits, in Kashmir.

In 1996 IARF held its triennial Congress in Iksan, the Republic of Korea. The programme included reports by IARF representatives to the United Nations on their work in support of human rights. Those reports were included in the published *Proceedings* of the Congress and were also made available in 1998 on the web site of IARF. IARF also uses its web site to report on human rights law concerning religious freedom; it has links with United Nations sites and other human rights web sites.

6. International Federation on Ageing

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

During the past four years, the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) has continued its activities designed to meet its primary mission of fostering an understanding of the imperative need of older persons for independence, dignity and security. These activities have centred on the following areas of activities: advocacy, bi-annual global conferences, publications, expansion of membership throughout the globe, and an increase in communication among members.

Advocacy

Throughout the reporting period, IFA was represented at the United Nations by a team of outstanding experts in ageing policy, headed by Mrs. Helen Hamlin. They worked closely with other non-governmental organizations at the United Nations and with the Ageing Unit of the United Nations. The election of Mrs. Hamlin to head the NGO Ageing

Council indicates the esteem with which she and her colleagues are held.

IFA participated in the planning and the execution of the United Nations Year of the Older Persons, including its launch in October 1998 and the final two-day special session of the General Assembly in New York in the fall of 1999.

IFA was also represented at the World Health Organization throughout the period, and it has had a representative in Vienna.

Bi-annual global conferences

Following the inaugural first global conference in Puna, India, held in 1992 and attended by some 400 persons, IFA made the decision to sponsor such conferences every two years in different parts of the world in order to widen its influence, educate practitioners, academics, media and political leaders, and bring together a greater number of members and supporters.

The Second Global Conference of the International Federation on Ageing took place in Jerusalem, from 17 to 21 September 1995. Its theme was "Global ageing: the challenges and opportunities of the next century". Representatives of the Ageing Unit attended the Conference, and a special meeting was held to explore avenues of grater cooperation. The attendance was nearly double that of the first conference.

The Third Global Conference took place in Durban, South Africa, from 19 to 24 October 1997. Its theme was "Ageing and diversity: towards empowerment and fulfilment". Close to 1,000 participants attended from all parts of the world. It was one of the first international conferences held in South Africa following the end of apartheid. Again, United Nations representatives were active participants.

The Fourth Global Conference served as a culminating event of the United Nations-mandated Year of Older Persons. Held in Montreal, the Conference attracted 1,800 persons from some 78 countries throughout the world. Its theme was "Ageing in a society for all ages". As part of the Conference a meeting of Ministers in charge of ageing policies and programmes for their respective countries took place. Thirty-five Ministers attended, representing such diverse large countries as Argentina, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, China and Japan, and such developing countries as Cameroon, Mali and Malaysia.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Alexander Kalache of the World Health Organization. Other presentations were made by Dr. Alexandre Siderenko of the Ageing Unit, and a large number of Ministers participated in a televised closing session. The Conference participants reviewed and approved the IFA Montreal Declaration, which has been forwarded to the United Nations.

Publications

Throughout the period IFA continued to distribute its publications and posters. It also published a monthly bulletin, *Intercom,* for its membership as well as the quarterly journal *Ageing International,* which is distributed to its members as well as to libraries and individual subscribers. The issues of *Ageing International* focus on different themes, and some have been double issues. One was released as a book (Transaction Press).

The IFA Latin American office, opened some two years ago, now publishes its own IFA *Ageing Journal* in Spanish. It is distributed widely throughout Latin America.

In 1995, Auburn House issued an IFA book entitled *Empowering Older People,* edited by Daniel Thursz, Charlotte Nusberg and Johnnie Prather. Reprinted by Cassell Press of London, the book is still in circulation and available through the IFA office in Montreal.

Expansion of membership throughout the globe

During the past five years, IFA has experienced a steady growth in its membership. This is true of both regular members and of associate members. In addition individual memberships have made it possible for practitioners and academicians to join the ranks of IFA. Several Governments and some corporations are associate members (non-voting).

Today, IFA's total membership is 355 in 64 different countries of the world.

Increased communication among members

In addition to the modernization of communication equipment at its international headquarters and the almost universal use of e-mail,

IFA has created its own web pages (www.ifa-fiv.org) which has revolutionized communication among members as well as with the public at large. Its policy statements — including the IFA Montreal Declaration — are on the web, as well as important information about global ageing. Of critical importance are the links which offer access through the IFA web pages to dozens of other web pages and endless libraries of materials on ageing. These IFA web pages are a great achievement and will continue to grow in importance in the subsequent years.

Conclusion

As this quadrennial period ends, the International Federation on Ageing is engaged in a major survey of the attitudes of seniors and professionals serving the aged in relation to the goals established by the United Nations nearly 10 years ago. This multinational survey should be released in the spring of 2000.

7. International Women's Health Coalition

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC) works to ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women of all ages. IWHC believes that global well-being and social and economic justice can only be achieved by ensuring women's rights, health and equality. IWHC works to:

(a) Help women experience a healthy sexual life, free from disease, violence, disability, fear, pain and death from causes related to reproduction and sexuality;

(b) Ensure women's right to choose whether and when to bear children, enable them to make fully informed choices, and ensure their access to the services they need;

(c) Achieve policies and programmes that guarantee the well-being of women, especially those agreed upon at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD, 1994) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995);

(d) Expand women's leadership, organizational capacities and political influence on these issues at the local, national and international levels.

IWHC provides technical, financial managerial and moral support to women's organizations, advocacy groups, health and rights activists, and service providers in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since 1995, IWHC is the secretariat for Health, Empowerment, Rights and Accountability (HERA), a group of 24 women's health advocates from 19 countries, with whom IWHC works closely in promoting implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action. Beginning in 1999, IWHC became active in supporting the participation of women's groups in Haiti and Eastern Europe in United Nations processes and joint projects with UNFPA. As a catalyst for action, IWHC forges alliances among diverse groups and individuals to influence the health and population policies and programmes of national Governments and international agencies. It publishes reports in several languages and convenes meetings on critical or neglected issues in women's health.

IWHC is supported by private foundations and individuals based in the United States and Europe; United Nations agencies; and several European Governments. Its sources of funding have not changed substantially since 1995.

IWHC's Board of Directors has grown even more international than it was in 1995, with representation from the United States, Western and Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. The Prime Minister of Mozambique, Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi; the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Nicolaas H. Biegman; and the Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Dr. Nafsiah Mboi, are among its current members.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings

Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, Beijing (attendance; the Vice-President of IWHC was a non-governmental member of the United States delegation; Board member Sandra Kabir was a non-governmental member of the Bangladesh delegation).

Commission on the Status of Women, March 1999, New York (attendance).

Commission on Population and Development, March 1999, New York (attendance).

Preparatory Committee of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly to review implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD, March and June 1999, New York (attendance; the President of IWHC was a non-governmental member of the United States delegation).

Twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, June 1999, New York ("ICPD plus 5") (attendance; the President of IWHC was a non-governmental member of the United States delegation).

IWHC played a leading role in mobilizing women's groups internationally at the Population and Women's Conferences. In cooperation with HERA, IWHC organized the Women's Coalition for ICPD of over 100 non-governmental organizations from around the world for the twenty-first session of the General Assembly.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IWHC has had official relations with WHO since 1994. IWHC has worked closely with WHO's Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) since 1990, and with the Family and Reproductive Health programme (FRH) since it began in 1995. IWHC has observer status in the Policy and Coordination Committee of HRP, and the President of IWHC has participated in the annual meetings of interested parties for FRH in Geneva.

IWHC has cooperated closely with UNFPA throughout the ICPD and the "ICPD plus 5" review. IWHC is a member of the Director-General of UNFPA's NGO Advisory Committee and a member of UNFPA's expert group on advocacy.

Other relevant activities

During the period of this report, IWHC had two contracts with WHO: one for $10,000 in 1996 to assist WHO's HRP integrate women's perspectives into their work; the other for $10,000 in 1997 to advise WHO's programmes on activities to prevent and manage unsafe abortion, and on women's perspectives and gender issues in health.

IWHC received two grants from UNFPA: a two-year grant of $100,000 in 1996 to carry out public education on the ICPD Programme of Action in the United States; and a two-year grant of $600,000 in 1997 for implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

8. National Council of Negro Women

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) is a voluntary, non-profit membership organization which helps women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and the community through social welfare programmes that reinforce human and civil rights. NCNW is an organization of organizations, and from its beginning, women of all racial and cultural backgrounds were included and welcomed to work together towards common goals.

There has been no change in the geographical membership structure of the NCNW.

The funding sources for the National Council of Negro Women have not changed substantially within the past four years. Its funds come primarily from membership dues, and corporate, foundations and government grants for specific programmes.

The National Council of Negro Women has an affiliation with the Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs (GAWE). In 1996, the International Division of NCNW worked closely with that Association to stage the first Global Entrepreneur Trade and Investment Forum to broaden entrepreneurial and investment opportunities for women in Ghana. The Forum was funded by UNDP to bring together African and African-American women entrepreneurs for the first time in an effort to increase trade and investment opportunities for women in America and Africa.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The NCNW United Nations representative began convening forums to prepare for the Fourth World Conference for Women as early as 1994. The

organization held a series of six meetings with its community-based sections, with representatives of its 32 national affiliates and with representatives from its 50 collaborative organizations to familiarize them with the goals and purpose of the Conference. The NCNW United Nations representative hosted a preparatory conference in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus National Forum to familiarize Caucus members with the goals and objectives of the Conference and to stress the importance of the United Nations. The President and CEO of NCNW served as adviser to the United States delegation. At the forty-seventh NCNW national convention, NCNW United Nations representatives conducted a briefing called "Beijing Platform for Action" to share information concerning the accomplishments of the Conference. The briefing was designed to give participants a better understanding of the Conference and the work of the United Nations. It also served as a guide for NCNW's local community-based sections, affiliates and collaborative organizations in monitoring the outcomes of the Conference, and as a means to encourage community programmes to help eliminate violence and other discriminatory practices against women at local and regional levels. The NCNW United Nations representative remains active in post-Beijing monitoring activities, which include attending public forums hosted by the White House Council on Women, in Washington, D.C., as well as attending State reporting sessions at the United Nations in New York. In addition, the NCNW United Nations representative held workshops in Los Angeles, New Haven and in Boston. They served to reaffirm an international interest among NCNW members and to create and improve understanding of the work of the United Nations. NCNW works in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations to press for the United States ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as set forth at the Beijing Conference. In March of 1996, the NCNW United Nations representative, in cooperation with the NCNW International Division, organized a Women's Day celebration to mark the United Nations International Women's Day. The event served to commemorate the leadership of African-American women and generate an interest in supporting international development programmes. In December 1996, the NCNW United Nations representative held a briefing at the NCNW Affiliates Assembly to brief the group about the Beijing Conference and share information about the United Nations and the programmes of the NCNW International Division in Africa and Egypt. In addition, the NCNW United Nations representatives participated in the United Nations Association meetings in New York and in Washington, D.C. and also served on the Board of Directors. The United Nations representative also attended United Nations Department of Public Information briefings and meetings of the United Nations Association and the Committee on Ageing.

9. National Wildlife Federation

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

The mission of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is to educate, inspire and assist individuals and organizations of diverse cultures to conserve wildlife and other natural resources and to protect the earth's environment in order to achieve a peaceful, equitable and sustainable future.

The National Wildlife Federation is the largest conservation education organization in the United States, with 4.5 million members and supporters located throughout the United States, but with additional individual members and supporters in 175 other countries. Through research, publications, litigation, volunteer training and public education, the National Wildlife Federation seeks to prepare for the environmental challenges of the coming century. Through its international programmes NWF maintains a dialogue with non-governmental organizations, government agencies, multilateral bodies and concerned individuals worldwide on the key topics of environmental protection and sustainable development. The National Wildlife Federation is a non-governmental, non-profit, tax-exempt conservation organization operating under the laws of the United States.

There have been no substantial changes since the last report in geographical membership, sources of funding or affiliation to international non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and meetings

1995. NWF mobilized activists nationwide to write over 4,000 letters and make hundreds of phone calls to the United States Congress in favour of appropriating funds for United Nations activities in sustainable development, including UNFPA, UNEP, UNDP and others. NWF held a major conference, Accounting for the Environment, aimed at promoting the methodology of natural resources accounting, for Governments and the Bretton Woods institutions. Staff of the United Nations Statistical Division participated.

NWF's Director of International Programs led the organization's delegation to the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the inter-sessional meeting, making a number of oral statements on behalf of non-governmental organizations in the informal meetings and at press events arranged by the United Nations Department of Public Information. NWF also participated in the NGO Steering Committee for the Commission.

In 1995 NWF presented its highest award, the Conservation Achievement Award, to Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

1996. During the inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the National Wildlife Federation convened two evening panel discussions on new financial resources and mechanisms for funding sustainable development. The first featured the Chairman of the Commission. United Nations officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of the Government of the Netherlands; the second featured the ambassadors from Thailand and Guyana, officials of the United Nations and independent experts. Several representatives of the National Wildlife Federation attended the fourth session of the Commission. NWF's Director of International Programs presented a paper on the future of the Commission, as an NGO panellist (along with the Chairmen of the first three sessions of the Commission) during the high-level segment. This was in preparation for the fifth session and the special session of the General Assembly to be held the following year.

Also during the fourth session of the Commission, NWF's Population and Environment Program Coordinator arranged for a well-attended NGO briefing on alternative waste management technologies that benefit women and children.

The Director of NWF's International Programs participated in the second International UNEP Meeting on Finance and the Environment, held in London.

1997. NWF's Director of International Programs participated in the Fourth Expert Meeting on Financing for Agenda 21, in Santiago, Chile. The Director also contributed a chapter called "Financial resources for the transition to sustainable development" to the book *The Way Forward: Beyond Agenda 21* (Earthscan, 1997) which promoted public understanding of the progress and promise of the Commission and the five years since the Rio Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development).

During the fifth session of the Commission, working with many governmental and non-governmental delegations, NWF promoted a proposal for the establishment of a special intergovernmental panel on finance to break the impasse between countries of the North and South which was impeding implementation of Agenda 21. This proposal was taken up in debate during the special session of the General Assembly, and the NWF International Director worked with governmental delegations to further the proposal, though in the end it was not adopted.

The National Wildlife Federation sent delegations to both the special session and to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

NWF's International Programs Director was a plenary speaker at the third international UNEP Meeting on Finance and the Environment, held in New York.

1998. The National Wildlife Federation developed a programme on climate change and wildlife, specifically designed to build a constituency in the United States for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Coordinator of NWF's Program on Finance and the Environment participated in the fourth UNEP meeting on Finance and the Environment, held in Cambridge, United Kingdom. Prior to the UNEP meeting, NWF organized the first NGO World Bank round table, bringing together leading international financial institutions and non-governmental

organizations to discuss environmental issues and to identify areas of common interest.

Throughout the quadrennium, NWF lobbied the United States Congress in favour of expanded United States participation in the United Nations; for high levels of voluntary contributions to the special agencies of the United Nations system which have a bearing on population, the environment and sustainable development; for full United States funding to fulfil the commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development; and for payment of United States arrears to the United Nations.

10. Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Period covered by the report: 1995-1998

The Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB) works for sustainable development by supporting the efforts of poor people in developing countries and by championing their cause in the North. NOVIB has three related goals: structural poverty alleviation through cooperation with partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; educating Dutch public opinion; and standing up for the interests of the poor in policy-making.

NOVIB is a national organization with national members who work internationally. There has been no substantial change in sources of funding. NOVIB has become a member of the Oxfam family and created, with other members, Oxfam International, in March 1995. Therefore, NOVIB is affiliated to Oxfam Great Britain (former Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland).

Participation in Economic and Social Council bodies and United Nations conferences and meetings

NOVIB's representatives attended the following:

1995

Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (16-27 January);

World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-13 March);

Economic and Social Council session (July);

Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September).

1996

Thirty-fourth session, Commission for Social Development (21-30 May);

Fifty-second session, Commission on Human Rights (18 March-26 April).

1997

Thirty-fifth session, Commission for Social Development (25 February-6 March);

Forty-first session, Commission on the Status of Women (10-21 March);

Fifty-third session, Commission on Human Rights (17 March-25 April).

1998

Thirty-sixth session, Commission for Social Development (10-19 February).

NOVIB also participated through:

(a) Written and oral statements made in cooperation with development caucuses and women's caucuses, through its networks: Eurostep (European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People) and Social Watch;

(b) A proposal for inclusion in the draft Programme of Action, January 1995;

(c) Speeches from development caucuses and Eurostep at the Social Summit, 1995;

(d) Stepping Stones from Copenhagen to Beijing, 1995;

(e) "Did we achieve the quality benchmark?" An NGO assessment of the Social Summit Declaration and Programme of Action, 1995;

(f) An NGO position paper for the Commission for Social Development, 1996;

(g) A press conference in the United Nations sponsored by the Netherlands on Social Watch, 28 May 1996.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

1995-1998: Dutch member of Human Development Partnership, sponsored by UNDP, Geneva.

1998: UNICEF invitation for presentation at Hanoi meeting on the 20/20 initiative (27-29 October 1998).

1996: Supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, by financing a report on trafficking of women by a Dutch organization, which the Special Rapporteur used in her 1996 report. NOVIB also facilitated a visit of the researchers to the session of the Commission.

Production of the document "International reactions to the *Human Development Report 1998*".

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of resolutions

Follow-up to the Social Summit

NOVIB has been the initiator and main funder of Social Watch, an initiative rooted in the development caucuses for the Social Summit and the Beijing Conference. It is a collective NGO monitoring process aimed at maintaining political momentum and increasing public awareness and pressure on national Governments in the North and the South and on international organizations to live up to and fully implement the commitments entered into in Copenhagen and Beijing. The contribution of civil society organizations is the basis of the Social Watch annual reports.

Anti-personnel mines

NOVIB has contributed to the implementation of relevant resolutions as a member of the Dutch Campaign to Ban Landmines since its inception in September 1994. The Dutch Campaign to Ban Landmines is a member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development: Yao Ngoran made a contribution to the Social Watch workshop on social development indicators.

Social Development and Poverty Elimination Division of UNDP: Thierry Lemaresquier participated in a consultation for the establishment of an advisory committee.

Other examples, including field-level collaboration

As a co-financing organization NOVIB works in developing countries to support local initiatives. In many instances there is field-level cooperation with United Nations organizations. The cooperation can be on the basis of a mutual programme or as partners in financing projects. In its project countries NOVIB works with IFAD (India, Pakistan); UNDP (Pakistan, El Salvador, Brazil, Bolivia); the World Bank (India, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile); WHO (India, Brazil, Bolivia); UNICEF (Zambia, Brazil, Chile, Bangladesh); FAO (India, Chile); WFP (Bangladesh); ILO (Bangladesh); UNIFEM (Suriname, Peru); UNFPA (Brazil); UNESCO (Brazil).

11. Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities

The Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI) is a non-profit international municipal organization whose main purpose is to foster a moral environment that will be a model of peaceful coexistence and supportive development and to strengthen awareness in order to promote greater understanding and cooperation among Ibero-American peoples.

The member cities of UCCI are: Asunción, Barcelona, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Guatemala City, Havana, La Paz, Lima, Lisbon, Madrid, Managua, Mexico City, Montevideo, Panama City, Rio de Janeiro, San José (Costa Rica), San Juan (Puerto Rico), San Franciso de Quito, Sante Fe de Bogotá, San Salvador, Santiago (Chile), Santo Domingo, São Paulo, Sucre and Tegucigalpa.

According to its Statutes, the Union's goals are to:

(a) Foster links, relations and exchanges of all kinds between the Ibero-American capital cities;

(b) Consider all the issues that affect the life, activities and problems of member municipalities;

(c) Promote the rights of neighbourhood and, in particular, the right to peaceful progress and the right of citizens to participate in public affairs and in the ever-widening sphere of international relations;

(d) Encourage harmonious and balanced development of Ibero-American capital cities, striving for solidarity and cooperation between them;

(e) Organize meetings and activities to foster the effective exchange of knowledge particularly in the economic, cultural, technical, professional and tourist sectors.

Between 1994 and 1997, representatives of UCCI attended the following meetings:

(a) Meeting of International Associations of Cities and Local Authorities, New York, August 1994;

(b) International Mayors' Forum on Social Development, New York, August 1994;

(c) Third Conference of the Latin American Network of National Town Council Associations, Córdoba, Argentina, November 1994;

(d) Preparatory meeting for Habitat II, Rio de Janeiro, June 1995;

(e) Second preparatory meeting of the Latin American Network of Town Council Associations for Habitat II, Santiago, November 1995;

(f) Third Conference of Local Government Associations and Networks, in preparation for Habitat II, New York, February 1996;

(g) World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, Istanbul, May 1996;

(h) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements "City Summit" Habitat II, Istanbul, June 1996;

(i) Seventh meeting of the Network of Latin American Municipalities and Cities and the Executive Committee of the Latin American Chapter of IULA, Miami, November 1996;

(j) Meeting of Mayors and Senior Municipal Officials of Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Rio de Janeiro, October 1997.

Activities organized by UCCI

1994

Sixth plenary assembly, Lisbon, September

Eighteenth Executive Committee, Rio de Janeiro, May

Nineteenth Executive Committee, Lisbon, September

Sixth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, San José, April

Seventh Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Havana, July

Eighth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Managua, December

Eighth Committee on Culture, Lisbon, April

Ninth Committee on Culture, San Juan, October

Sixth Committee on Tourism, Rio de Janeiro, March

Fifth Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Asunción, September

Fourth Seminar on Urban Development, Mexico City, October

Meeting on Marginal Districts, Quito, September

Second Meeting of Ibero-American Municipal Firefighters, Madrid, October

Third International Seminar on Municipal Policies, Madrid, December

Seventh Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, June (1st phase) and November (2nd phase)

Ibero-American Capital of Culture 1994, Lisbon

1995

Twentieth Executive Committee, Madrid, March

Twenty-first Executive Committee, Asunción, October

Fifth Meeting of Southern Cone Mayors, Asunción, March

Tenth Committee on Culture, Montevideo, September

Seventh Committee on Tourism, Asunción, March

Second Committee on Computer Science and Municipal Statistics, Brasilia, September

Sixth Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Rio de Janeiro, October

Second Committee on the Environment, Rio de Janeiro, October

First Committee on Social Development, Montevideo, August

Ibero-American Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities, "The Role of Municipalities in the Management of Transport and Development", Santiago, October

Eighth Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, March (1st phase) and November (2nd phase)

Fifth Ibero-American Photography prizes, Madrid, October

Fourth Municipal Investigation prizes, Madrid, October

Second Video prizes, Madrid, October

Ibero-American Culture Capital 1995, Managua

1996

Seventh plenary assembly, Mexico City, November

Twenty-second Executive Committee, San Juan, April

Twenty-third Executive Committee, Mexico City, November

Ninth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Tegucigalpa, February

Tenth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, San Juan, April

Sixth Meeting of Southern Cone Mayors, Asunción, March

Eleventh Committee on Culture, Montevideo, November

Eighth Committee on Tourism, Havana, September

Seventh Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Madrid, June

Second Committee on Social Development, Quito, October

First Committee on Economic Development, Tegucigalpa, February

First Committee on Decentralization, Administrative Regionalization and Public Services, Lima, September

Fifth Seminar on Urban Development, Mexico City, July

Third Meeting of Ibero-American Municipal Firefighters, Santiago, August

Meeting of International Relations Officials in Ibero-American Capitals regarding the Future of the European Union, Madrid, July

International Seminar on Decentralization and Local Government, Lima, September

Ninth Ibero-American International Training Programme, Madrid, October

Ibero-American Culture Capital 1996, Montevideo

1997

Twenty-fourth Executive Committee, Tegucigalpa, April

Twenty-fifth Executive Committee, Santo Domingo, October

Eleventh Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Tegucigalpa, April

Seventh Meeting of Southern Cone Mayors, Buenos Aires, May

Twelfth Committee on Culture, Havana, July

Ninth Committee on Tourism, Buenos Aires, May

Eighth Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Panama, November

Third Committee on the Environment, Quito, April

Third Committee on Social Development, Brasilia, June

Second Committee on Economic Development, Santo Domingo, April

Second Committee on Decentralization, Ica (Peru), August

First Committee on Transit and Transport, Caracas, November

Sixth Seminar on Urban Development, Mexico City, August

Forum on Trade on the Public Highway, Mexico City, February

Ibero-American Meeting on Consumer Protection Policies, Santo Domingo, April

International Seminar: Air Pollution in High Altitude Cities, Quito, April

First UCCI-UCCLA Cooperation Fair: Meeting on Housing, Lisbon, May

Meeting on Rehabilitation of Historic Centres as a Means of Supporting Tourism, Sucre, June

Municipalist Seminar "SINADES Programme", Madrid, August

Meeting on the Informal Economy, Lima, August

Summit of Ibero-American and European Capital Cities, Madrid, September

First International Seminar "Drugs and the City", Santiago, November

International Meeting on Transit and Transport in Big Cities, Caracas, November

Tenth Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, March

Eleventh Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, October

Ibero-American Culture Capital 1997, Havana

12. World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

By building cooperative relationships among the 483 cities in 102 countries and regions that, as of 1 November 1999, had expressed formal support for the Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities towards the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, proposed by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the special session of the General Assembly on Disarmament, in June 1982, this Conference seeks to arouse international public awareness of the need to abolish nuclear weapons; and by working to alleviate hunger, poverty, environmental destruction and the myriad other problems that threaten the peaceful coexistence of humankind, it seeks to contribute to the realization of lasting world peace.

Participation in other conferences

The World Conference of Mayors attended the Annual Conference for Non-Government Organizations (NGO), organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) (18-20 September 1995, United Nations Headquarters). It also attended as observer the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (18 and 19 April 1995, United Nations Headquarters) and submitted a statement and supporting documents to the Conference Chairman, expressing opposition to the indefinite extension of the Treaty. It attended the NGO Conference on Disarmament (24 and 25 April 1996, United Nations Headquarters) and the twentieth General Assembly of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (3-5 November 1997, International Labour Organization headquarters, Geneva).

Cooperation with the United Nations

The World Conference of Mayors hosted the following United Nations conferences on disarmament issues:

12-16 June 1995 (Nagasaki);

17-20 July 1996 (Hiroshima);

24-27 November 1998 (Nagasaki).

It also hosted the United Nations and disarmament symposia of 16 June 1995 (Nagasaki) and of 18 June 1995 (Hiroshima).

It hosted United Nations Disarmament Fellows (Hiroshima and Nagasaki), as follows:

1-6 October 1995 (30 Fellows from 30 countries);

11-17 October 1996 (20 Fellows from 19 countries);

17-23 October 1997 (24 Fellows from 24 countries);

10-16 October 1998 (25 Fellows from 25 countries).

Other activities

In conjunction with United Nations Disarmament Week, the Mayors Conference held an annual Children and Students Peace Poster and Picture Exhibition (name changed in 1997 to Children's Peace Drawings Competition).

A member of the secretariat staff of the World Conference was assigned to work from 10 July 1995 until 5 July 1996 for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

On 7 November 1995, the president and vice-president of the Conference gave oral depositions to the International Court of Justice regarding the illegalilty of the use of nuclear weapons, appearing as official representatives of the Japanese Government.

From 4 to 9 August 1997 the fourth General Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (Hiroshima and Nagasaki) was held (participants: 117 cities from 33 countries). The theme was Peace, Justice and Freedom: Efforts toward Global Harmony. Support was provided by the United Nations Information Centre, United Nations University, United Nations Association of Japan.

The Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was held from 27 to 30 June 1995 (participants: 57 cities in 13 countries), with the theme Peace in the Asia and Pacific Regions and the Roles of Cities — Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. Support was provided by the United Nations Information Centre, United Nations University, United Nations Association of Japan.

Letters were sent to protest nuclear testing by China and France (1995, 1996), and sub-critical nuclear testing by the United States and the Russian Federation (1997, 1998, 1999). Protests were also sent to India and Pakistan after their tests in 1998.

The World Conference published volumes 4 through 10 of its *Newsletter*.

In cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information, a permanent display of atomic bomb materials has been on display in the first floor lobby of the United Nations Headquarters building since September 1983.

Hirsohima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibitions were mounted from 20 August to 1 September 1997 (United States of America), 1 to 31 March 1998 (Italy), and 2 September to 9 October 1998 (United States).

The following international peace symposia were held:

6 August 1995, on The Future of the Nuclear Civilization — Considering History and Humanity;

2 August 1996, on A Step towards a Nuclear-Free World;

29 July 1997, on The Non-nuclearization of Northeast Asia and Japan's Role;

4 August 1998, on Our Role in Eliminating Nuclear Weapons.